long, very much arched from behind forwards, and presented the appearance of a boat whose keel is directed upwards (scapho-cephalic). In addition the eyes were very deeply set, which was explained by the fact that the antero-posterior diameter being so remarkably long the orbits developed in a similar manner and thus became very deep, and since the bulbi were not long enough to fill the orbits, they appear to lie deeply therein.

The second case was one of a man 35 year old, who had had epilepsy since his 12th year, and whose head was dome shaped. This was explained by Meynert to be due to a premature synostosis of the lateral parts of the coronal sutures, whereby a shortening of the anterior part of the cranial cavity occurred and similarly involving the orbit so that the individual appeared to be flat-eyed (oxy-cephalic). Meynert attempts to elucidate with these two cases a diagnosis *in vivo* of premature cranial synostosis. Synostosis of the middle portion of the coronal suture produces a bulging in the occipital region, and a diminution in size of the frontal and parietal regions, the brain being crowded backwards. Synostosis of the lateral parts of the coronal suture the growth of the frontal and parietal regions is hindered and a shortening of the orbit (flat-eye) results. Ossification of the posterior part of the sagittal suture, the breadth of the cranium, is diminished, and the cranium becomes posteriorly very small.

The following points are characteristic in defining a synostotic (oxy-cephalic) cranium :

1. Subnormal horizontal circumference (Nanna-cephalus).
2. Vertical diameter larger than the horizontal.
3. The vertical diameter, however, must possess this character: the vertical index must be brachycephalic.
4. The flat eye.

N. E. B.

TYPICAL DIPHTHERITIC PARALYSIS.

This affection comes on some little time after the acute illness has subsided. The paralysis (which involves sensory and motor nerves alike) tends to be of symmetrical distribution, to creep from part to part, and to subside in one region as it invades another. Sensory disturbances are not limited to the extremities, but are apt to involve districts situated in the middle line of the body, including the tongue and mouth and the senses of taste and smell. Paralysis of diphtheritic origin is liable not only to affect the arms, legs, respiratory muscles, muscles of the trunk and accommodation, and of swallowing, but also the vocal cords and even single nerves. Knee-jerks are first exaggerated, then abolished, and the affected muscles acquire the characteristic reactions of degeneration. Many of the phenomena are such as would seem to be best explained on the assumption that they are due to spreading neuritis. Others (such as sensory affections along the middle line, the early undue briskness of knee-jerk, and nystagmus) seem rather to be due to some spreading central lesion. I am inclined to believe that, in diphtheritic paralysis, a wave, so to speak, of slight inflammatory mischief spreads not only through the medulla oblongata and cord, but along the nerve trunk also.—J. S. Bristowe, in British Medical Journal, Feb. 14, 1888. L. F. B.

DENTITION AMONG IDIOTIC AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Dr. Alice Sollier (Ancienne Externe des Hôpitaux de Paris et de l'Hôpital des Enfants-Malades) finds that idiocy, with or without epilepsy, predisposes ninety-one per cent. of the victims to dental deformity and disease. The record includes one hundred clinical cases. Congenital idiocy has no more special influence in this respect than idiocy developed during the first dentition. Deformities and lesions are almost exclusively associated with the second dentition. The appearance and shedding of the milk teeth are usually delayed. In fourteen per cent. there were dwarfed teeth ; in eleven per cent., giant teeth. Other abnormalities were found in fifty-three per cent, and absence of teeth in eleven per cent. Giant teeth were often found where others had not developed, or else they represented anchylosis of two adjacent teeth. In only two per cent. were supernumerary teeth discovered. Anomalies of im-